

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 462

September 22, 1995, 1:05 p.m.  
Page S-14127 Temp. Record

## D.C. APPROPRIATIONS/D.C. Schools

**SUBJECT:** District of Columbia Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996 . . . S. 1244. Byrd amendment No. 2768, as amended.

### ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 88-10

**SYNOPSIS:** As amended, S. 1254, the District of Columbia Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996, will provide the District of Columbia (D.C.) Government with \$712 million in Federal funds (including retirement funds), and will approve the District's \$5.24 billion budget. Bill provisions include the following:

- a Commission on Consensus Public School Reform will be created to control school finances in conjunction with the financial control board;
- a charter school initiative for public schools will be established;
- Federal funds will not be used to pay for the salaries, expenses, or other costs associated with the offices of a U.S. Senator or Representative under the D.C. statehood constitutional convention initiative;
- Federal funds will not be used to perform abortions except in cases of rape or incest, or when the life of the mother would be endangered;
- Federal funds will not be used to implement a domestic partners law;
- Members of Congress and the President will not be paid during any Federal Government shutdown; and
- no funds will be used for the renovation of the Eastern Market.

The Byrd amendment would make three changes regarding District of Columbia Public Schools. First, it would require a dress code that would include a prohibition of gang membership symbols, and that would permit a requirement for students to wear uniforms. Second, it would require any student who was suspended from school to perform community service during that suspension. Third, it would make the Chief of the National Guard Bureau an ex officio member of the Commission on Consensus Reform in the District of Columbia Public Schools (that commission will be created by this Act).

NOTE: Subsequent to the vote, the bill, as amended, was adopted by voice vote.

(See other side)

YEAS (88)				NAYS (10)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republican (53 or 100%)		Democrats (35 or 78%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (10 or 22%)	Republicans (1)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Hutchison	Akaka	Inouye		Bingaman	Gramm- <sup>2</sup>	Pryor- <sup>2</sup>
Ashcroft	Inhofe	Baucus	Johnston		Breaux		
Bennett	Jeffords	Biden	Kennedy		Feingold		
Bond	Kassebaum	Boxer	Kerrey		Glenn		
Brown	Kempthorne	Bradley	Kerry		Graham		
Burns	Kyl	Bryan	Lautenberg		Heflin		
Campbell	Lott	Bumpers	Levin		Kohl		
Chafee	Lugar	Byrd	Lieberman		Leahy		
Coats	Mack	Conrad	Mikulski		Murray		
Cochran	McCain	Daschle	Moseley-Braun		Robb		
Cohen	McConnell	Dodd	Moynihan				
Coverdell	Murkowski	Dorgan	Nunn				
Craig	Nickles	Exon	Pell				
D'Amato	Packwood	Feinstein	Reid				
DeWine	Pressler	Ford	Rockefeller				
Dole	Roth	Harkin	Sarbanes				
Domenici	Santorum	Hollings	Simon				
Faircloth	Shelby		Wellstone				
Frist	Simpson						
Gorton	Smith						
Grams	Snowe						
Grassley	Specter						
Gregg	Stevens						
Hatch	Thomas						
Hatfield	Thompson						
Helms	Thurmond						
	Warner						

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

**Those favoring** the amendment contended:

Public schools in the District suffer from a severe lack of discipline. The Byrd amendment would enact reforms to remedy that problem. First, it would require a dress code, and would permit a requirement to wear uniforms. We know other school districts have had great success with uniform requirements. For example, in Long Beach, California, school crime dropped 36 percent and suspensions dropped 32 percent after a mandatory uniform policy was adopted for grades K-12. All Members have heard of the problems of children killing children to steal their expensive tennis shoes or other articles of clothing, all Members have heard of children killing children based on the gang insignia which they were wearing, and all Members know of the immense pressure put on poor parents by their children to buy them the latest, and expensive, fashions. A uniform requirement removes these problems and puts the focus back where it should be, on scholarship and school activities.

Second, the amendment would require children who have been suspended due to misbehavior to perform community work during their suspensions. A suspension should not be seen as a welcome vacation from school. Miscreants should be made to work. A work requirement would make sure they were supervised during their suspensions and it would make sure they did not enjoy being suspended.

Finally, the amendment would make the Chief of the National Guard Bureau an ex officio member of the school reform commission that will be created by this Act. The National Guard has been involved in youth programs throughout the United States. It has 5 separate programs in 30 States that have had great success in helping "at-risk" youth. Putting the Chief on this new school reform commission would ensure that the District would be able to take advantage of the expertise that the National Guard has in this area.

No one denies the tremendous discipline problems that are rampant in the District's schools. The Byrd amendment has three concrete proposals which we believe would help to lessen these problems. We therefore urge our colleagues to vote for its adoption.

**Those opposing** the amendment contended:

We respect the motivation of our colleagues in proposing this amendment but we cannot accept it because it would micromanage the District's affairs in contravention of the principle of home rule.